

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02

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NSC-07 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SS-20 SP-03 FEA-02 CG-00

DOT-00 INT-08 H-03 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /166 W

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R 030043Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3089

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 6587

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV MEX

SUBJECT: THE ENVIRONMENT: MEXICO-US COOPERATION

(EIGHT ITEMS)

DEPT PASS EL PASO FOR IBWC

1. AT AUGUST 1 MEETING WITH UNDERSECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT, FRANCISCO VIZCAINO MURRAY (SUBSECRETARIO DE MEJORAMIENTO DEL AMBIENTE, SMA), WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM EUROPE, SCICOUNS PRESENTED COUNSELOR FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, W. A. HAYNE (FORMERLY SENIOR STAFF MEMBER FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, CEQ), TO UNDER-SECRETARY. HERBERT QUINN, EPA DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY, PRESENTLY IN MEXICO WHERE HE DELIVERED PAPER ON EPA ORGANIZATION TO PAHO CONFERENCE, WAS ALSO PRESENTED. LATTER CONVEYED WARM PERSONAL GREETINGS OF EPA ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, FITZHUGH GREEN, WHICH HEARTILY RECIPROCATED. LIC. JORGE VELASCO, SMA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR COORDINATION ALSO PRESENT DURING VERY CORDIAL MEETING. UNDER-SECRETARY ALSO SENDS HIS BEST TO JUDGE TRAIN AND FORMER EPA ADMINISTRATOR RUCKELSHAUS.

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2. VARIOUS TOPICS DISCUSSED AS FOLLOWS:

A. CHRISTIAN HERTER (SCI/EN) LETTER OF JUNE 12 TO VIZCAINO MURRAY CONCERNING PROPOSED REGIONAL MEETING IN CARIBBEAN ON LAND-BASED POLLUTION. THE UNDERSECRETARY SAID MEXICO WOULD BE HAPPY HOST SUCH A MEETING. DETAILS AND COMMENT SEPTEL.

B. FITZHUGH GREEN JUNE 10 LETTER TO HAYNE CONCERNING PROPOSAL INFORMAL MEETING IN BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, OF EPA, PROPOSED AND TEXAS WATER AND AIR CONTROL BOARD REPS, TOGETHER WITH BROWNSVILLE PORT DIRECTOR, TO DISCUSS METHODS SOLVING POLLUTION PROBLEMS ALONG TEXAS BORDER. VIZCAINO CONSIDERED PROPOSAL IN KEEPING WITH FINDINGS ("CONCLUSIONS OF EXPERTS") DECEMBER 1973 BILATERAL MEETING, MEXICO CITY, NOW BLESSED BY FONSEC, AND GAVE GO-AHEAD. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW-UP WITH VELASCO, REQUESTING HE ADVISE SMA BORDER REPS TO PROCEED WITH INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS.

C. SECOND BINATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ALONG BORDER.

THE FIRST SYMPOSIUM WAS HELD AT EL PASO, TEXAS, SEPTEMBER 1973, UNDER AUSPICES UTEP (UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO). UNITED STATES PRINCIPAL REP, THIS FIRST TWIN CITY MEETING (EL PASO-CIUDAD JUAREZ), WAS EPA'S FITZHUGH GREEN, GOM PRINCIPAL REP BEING VIZCAINO MURRAY, WHO PROPOSED AT MEETING THAT FOLLOW-UP IN 1974 BE HELD IN MEXICO AT IMPORTANT TWIN CITY BORDER POINT TIJUANA (FOR TIJUANA-SAN DIEGO).

VIZCAINO MURRAY ADVISED EMBREPS THAT PURSUANT RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH UTEP AND EPA REGIONAL REPS THAT SECOND SYMPOSIUM PLANNED FOR NUEVO LAREDO (LAREDO-NUEVO LAREDO TWIN CITIES) EARLY 1975. IN VIEW REGIONAL MEETING CARIBBEAN PROPOSED FOR JANUARY 1975, HE EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR FEBRUARY.

REASONS FOR CHANGE OF LOCALE FROM TIJUANA TO NUEVO LAREDO INCLUDE CHANGES OF AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING GOVERNORS, OF MEXICAN BORDER STATES AND UTEP PREFERENCE AT THIS TIME FOR TEXAS BORDER AREA SINCE IT HAS NO JURISDICTION IN CALIFORNIA. SMA STAFF OFFICER IN CHARGE UNCLASSIFIED

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NEGOTIATIONS, MARTINEZ NARVAEZ, WILL PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH COPY IN-HOUSE SMA REPORT ON SITUATION TO DATE. (ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS MADE IN ADVANCE AUGUST 1 MEETING.)

D. CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR OIL SPILLS AND OTHER HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES.

INTEREST OF US COAST GUARD AND EPA IN THIS TOPIC REITERATED, TOGETHER WITH EXPRESSION THEIR INTEREST MEET

WITH GOM COUNTERPARTS. CONVERSATIONS WITH FONSEC ALSO RECALLED AND LATTER'S COMMENT THAT FOR GOM THIS WOULD BE MEXICAN NAVY MATTER, INCLUDING IBWC, AND NOT SMA.

VIZCAINO MURRAY REACTED IMMEDIATELY, GIVING INSTRUCTIONS TO VELASCO TO PUT THIS ITEM ON NEXT WEEKLY MEETING, SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 8, OF INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, ON WHICH NAVY AND FONSEC REPRESENTED, HIS THOUGHT BEING TO PROPOSE AT THAT TIME THAT US REPS BE INVITED TO COME TO MEXICO CITY FOR THIS PURPOSE O/A AUGUST 15 (OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS CONVENIENT) IF INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE APPROVED.

E. IMPACT OF TOURISM ON BAJA CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENT. REF STATE 162956 AND MEX 9544.

SCICOUNS EXPLAINED THAT THIS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH DR. ENRIQUE SANCHEZ PALOMERA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF SMA TECHNICAL COUNCIL, WHO HAD TAKEN IT UP WITH DR. EDUARDO ECHEVERRIA, PRESIDENT OF THAT COUNCIL (AND BROTHER TO THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO); LATTER HAD EXPRESSED SMA INTEREST IN MATTER BUT FELT MORE PROPERLY SHOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH JULIO HIRSCHFIELD, HEAD OF TOURIST DEPARTMENT. (LACK OF SMA BUDGET FOR THIS ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY ALSO CITED.) DUE EMBREP ABSENCE FROM MEXICO, NO FOLLOW-UP ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN WITH HIRSCHFIELD. MATTER NOW URGENT BECAUSE OF DEPT INTERIOR MEETING SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 22 WITH STATE OF CALIFORNIA AUTHORITIES (REFTEL).

VIZCAINO MURRAY PICKED UP TELEPHONE, DIALED HIRSCHFIELD DIRECTLY TO SET-UP APPOINTMENT FOR EMBREP TO CALL, BUT UNABLE REACH HIM PERSONALLY; WILL SET-UP APPOINTMENT FOR FIRST PART OF COMING WEEK AND ADVISE EMBASSY. JOVA

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R 030043Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3090

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 MEXICO 6587

DEPT PASS EL PASO FOR IBWC

F. EXPO 74.

VIZCAINO MURRAY ADVISED THAT HEALTH MINISTER JIMENEZ CANTU AND HE WISHED VISIT EXPOSITION ACCOMPANIED BY PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND SELECTED TOP MEXICAN INDUSTRIALISTS, CONFIRMING INFORMATION PROVIDED TO EMBASSY EARLIER IN WEEK, WHEN SMA REP HAD REQUESTED INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE.

SCICOUNS CONVEYED TELEPHONIC MESSAGE FROM EXPO PRESIDENT COLE TO EFFECT THEY WOULD BE HAPPY RECEIVE MEXDEL, ALTHOUGH WOULD BE DIFFICULT ACCOMMODATE LARGE GROUP AT THIS LATE DATE, THAT MATTER ALREADY DISCUSSED WITH SMA REP GODEA, AND EXPO STANDING BY FOR CONFIRMATION OF DATES, OTHER DETAILS.

UNDERSECRETARY STATED THAT GROUP AS PRESENTLY PLANNED BY MINISTER WOULD CONSIST OF SOME 14 INDUSTRY REPS AND 6 GOM OFFICIALS AT MAXIMUM, AND NOT THE 100 ORIGINALLY MENTIONED THAT JIMENEZ CANTU AND HE PROCEEDING TO WASHINGTON FOR HEALTH MEETINGS SEPT 6 AND 8, THUS PREFERABLE DATE FOR EXPO VISIT WOULD BE SEP 9-12 PERIOD. VIZCAINO MURRAY ADDED THAT THEY WOULD BE HAPPY PRESENT REPORT ON GOM ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY PROGRAM ON ON OCCASION VISIT, IF THIS FEASIBLE AND ARRANGEMENTS
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COULD BE MADE (FYI THIS POINT DISCUSSED BY SCICOUNS WITH COLE IN TELECON 7/31; LATTER EXPLORING SITUATION WITH NO COMMITMENT MADE, END FYI).

G. INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENTS.

EMBREP DELIVERED EPA STUDIES FORWARDED BY GREEN LETTER OF JUNE TO SCICOUNS. ECONCOUNS TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO REFER TO RECENT LOCAL PRESS REPORTS TO EFFECT 2,000 CONTAMINATING INDUSTRIES MEXICO CITY METROPOLITAN AREA UNABLE MEET EMISSIONS CONTROL REQUIREMENTS BY ESTABLISHED MAY 17 DEADLINE, OFFERING TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THEM INFO ON US POLLUTION-CONTROL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS, IF THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL.

VIZCAINO MURRAY INSTRUCTED VELASCO PROVIDE EMBREP WITH FULL REPORT RECENT MEETINGS ON THIS TOPIC TOGETHER WITH LISTINGS AFFECTED INDUSTRIES.

H. STATE OF ARIZONA REQUIREMENTS FOR MANDATORY

VEHICLE EMISSION INSPECTIONS.

COPIES OF ARIZONA LEGISLATION DELIVERED TO
UNDERSECRETARY, PURSUANT SMA REQUEST FOR SAME.

EMBASSY COMMENT:

MEETING CONDUCTED IN CORDIAL FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE
CHARACTERIZED BY RAPID-FIRE ACTION OF UNDERSECRETARY ON
VARIOUS TOPICS DISCUSSED.

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